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BURPEE'S 10 x 15 FOOT SCHOOL GARDEN COLLECTION OF VEGETABLES, 25 CENTS

WHAT TO DO IN MARCH

How to Start Things.—Early in the month sow the cabbage and tomato seed in boxes indoors. Examine your garden tools and see that they are in good condition. You need a spade, a rake, a hoe, a trowel, and a watering-can. Start a garden note book NOW! If you wish to grow large and fine vegetables, the plants must be fed. Well-rotted manure will give good results, and for a garden 10 by 15 feet 50 to 60 pounds will be enough. It is well to get 5 to 6 pounds of air-slaked lime for the garden, as the absence of lime in the soil is likely to make the garden a failure. During the third week the manure is spread evenly over the ground, and if the soil is dry enough, it is spaded in not less than six inches deep. Be sure that all the manure is covered with soil, at the same time breaking up lumps and removing all stones.

WHAT TO DO IN APRIL

When the soil has dried out so that a ball of it will crumble when broken apart, spread the lime evenly over the garden, raking it in with a forward and backward stroke until the surface is quite smooth. Next measure exactly where each row is to go, and draw a STRAIGHT furrow. The first to be planted are swiss chard, beets, onions, radishes, and lettuce. If the cabbage was started early in March, it should now be ready for setting out. As soon as the young plants appear, cultivation must be started. At first the surface between the rows should be merely scratched, but by the end of the month the plants should be large enough to permit regular hoeing. The rows must be thinned at the proper time to the number of plants given below, and all weeds should be pulled with roots attached as soon as they can be recognized.

THE WORK FROM MAY ON

Starting with the second week sow beans, watermelon, pumpkin, and sweet corn. Set out the tomato plants if they are large enough. After all is sown the garden work is by no means finished for the year. You must—(1) Destroy all weeds while still small; (2) hoe the garden regularly; (3) water during dry spells, but only in the evening; (4) examine your plants to see that they are healthy, and apply a control measure if you find injurious insects or any disease; (5) pick all vegetables before they get old and tasteless; (6) remove all plants after the crop is gathered; (7) clean off the whole patch late in the fall, when severe frosts have arrived.

THE VEGETABLES ROW BY ROW

Swiss Chard, Lucullus.—Sow the seed from April 1 to May 15 thinly and evenly into a furrow ½ to ¾ inch deep. When the plants are 2 to 3 inches high, thin the row to leave the strongest plants 8 to 10 inches apart. Only the larger outer leaves are gathered after the plants are 10 inches high, so that the heart will grow and make more leaves.

Beet, Dark Stinson.—Sow the seed any time from April 1 to May 30 thinly and evenly into a furrow 1 inch deep. When 2 to 3 inches high, thin the row to leave the plants 3 to 4 inches apart.

Onion, Prize-Taker.—Sow the seed from April 1 to May 5 thinly and evenly into a shallow furrow, and cover with ½ to ¾ inch of fine soil. Thin the plants to stand 2 to ½ inches apart when they are 2 to 3 inches high.

Cabbage, Allhead-Early.—Start the seed in the house in a shallow box from March 1 to May 10. When the seedlings are 2 inches high, transplant the 12 strongest ones to another box, setting them 3 inches apart in each direction. If started early in March, they will be large enough to go into the garden by the middle of April. Select the 9 strongest plants, setting them 1 foot apart in the row.

Radish, Scarlet Button.—Sow from April 1 to May 1, and cover with ½ to ¾ inch of fine soil. When 2 to 3 inches high, thin out to stand 1 inch apart in the row. Use the roots while still small or they lose their crisp flavor.

Lettuce, May King.—Sow thinly and evenly from April 1 to May 1, and cover with ½ inch of fine soil. Thin to stand first 4 and later 8 inches apart.

Watermelon, Fordhook Early.—Draw the earth together in 4 hills 2 feet apart, and sow from May 10 to 31, placing 3 or 4 seeds in a circle on top of each hill. Cover with 1 to 1½ inches of fine soil, and firm the topsoil, slightly pressing with the hands. Thin each hill to the two strongest plants when they start to form runners.

Tomato, Chalk's Jewel.—Sow the seed from March 1 to April 15 in a well-prepared seed-box, and keep moderately moist and warm until the sprouts appear. When 1 to 2 inches high, transplant the strongest 10 plants into another box, leaving 3 inches in each direction. If started early, set out into the garden during the second week of May. Later sowings are put out about five to six weeks after sowing. Set 5 poles (6 feet long) firmly in the ground to leave 2 feet between the poles in the row and 1 foot on each end. Tie the plants to the stakes as they grow larger.

Bean, Burpee's Stringless Green-Pod.—Sow from the second week of May to June 1. Cover with 1 to 1½ inches of fine soil. The seed must be spaced by hand about 4 inches apart. Pick the pods before they get old or they lose their fine flavor.

Pumpkin, Small Sugar.—Make 4 hills as for the watermelons, and sow from May 10 to 31, placing 5 or 6 seeds to each hill. Thin out when they begin to form runners, leaving the strongest three plants in each hill.

Sweet Corn, Golden Bantam.—Two rows. Sow from May 10 to June 15, spacing the seed 3 to 4 inches apart in the row. When the plants are 4 to 5 inches high, thin them out to stand not less than 8 inches apart. Give shallow cultivation and remove any suckers forming on the base of the plants.

W. ATLEE BURPEE CO., SEED GROWERS PHILADELPHIA

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